Enquiry on missing bags of Hajis

4568. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bags of nearly hundered Hajis returning to the country by Air India recently were found missing on arrival at the IGI airport;

(b) whether any inquiry into the circumstances leading to the missing of such a large number of bags has been made by the Government.

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the number of bags that have been recovered and returned to the owners and the compensation required to be paid by Government for the remaining missing bags; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government for the laxity and irresponsibility shown by Air India in loading the bags'?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Most returning Haj pilgrims have considerable excess baggage which cannot be brought on the same flight. Such excess baggage was cleared by Air India on its scheduled flights. The question of compensation in this case would not arise as the baggages were subsequently handed over to the pilgrims/Haj committee.

Acquisition of Building by AI at London

4569. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the London office of Air India acquired a building named "The Highway" about 7 km. beyond Hethrow Airport in December 1994;

(b) if so, the purpose for which this building was acquired and the amount paid by the authority;